

Post abortion sorrow in Japan

Subject: What We Can Learn From the Japanese on Abortion
by Marvin Olasky, Editor of World Magazine

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Aborting mothers in Japan have known that for a long time. They typically make or buy mizuko jizos, small statues of babies. They dress the statues in bibs and knitted caps, and leave next to the statues bottles of milk, baby rattles and furry toys. You can find stacks of mizuko jizos in cemeteries and also in special temples where they are housed. Mourning parents pay hundreds of dollars per year to have a small statue bathed and dressed, with incense burned and prayers recited.

One survey showed 86 percent of Japanese women and 76 percent of men saying they felt or would feel guilty upon having an abortion or pressuring their partners to have one. In this country, abortion advocates have generally sneered at the reality of post-abortion syndrome. Maybe now they will accept it and call for government provision of "grief consultants."

Mourning is important when death has visited. But mourning becomes electric only when people are moved to action, and particularly to help other innocents from dying as well. Confession not followed by repentance and action is suspect.